

## Poetry

- I. Poetry includes songs (Ex. 15:1-8; Jud. 5; Psalms)
- II. Hebrew poetry is not based on meter & rhyme like English poetry but rather on meter and semantic parallelism<sup>2</sup>
  - A. Meter
  - B. Parallelism
    1. \_\_\_\_\_ parallelism Ps. 1:5; Ps. 24:1
    2. \_\_\_\_\_ parallelism Dt. 32:13b; Ps. 23:1
    3. \_\_\_\_\_ parallelism Pr. 10:1; Ps. 34:19
  - C. The three legged stool Isa. 53:6
  - D. Poetic grammatical constructions
    1. Chiasm: the mirror image Isa. 6:10
    2. Paronomasia: play on words Isa. 5:7
    3. Acrostic poems: lines begin with the same letter
    4. Assonance: a different vowel sound separates words Jer 1:11-12
- III. Poetry always compresses “stuff” into a tightly packed space.
- IV. So when you are teaching from poetry, *take time to unpack it.*
  - A. Similes Isa. 53:6
  - B. Metaphors: Similes without *like* and *as* Ps. 23:1; II Pet. 2:17; Ps. 18:2
  - C. Metonyms Gen. 49:10; Ps. 49:15
  - D. Idioms: we do not understand these statements literally

1. “The apple [pupil] of my eye” = something very \_\_\_\_\_

Ps. 17:8

2. “Flowing with milk and honey” = very \_\_\_\_\_ Ex. 3:8

E. References to previous events Ps. 78:13-17

Both narrative and poetry are used for prophecy.

### Categorization of the Psalms

1. Psalms of \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 1)

2. Psalms of \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 73)

3. Psalms of \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 40)

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. William W. Klein, et al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993, page 344

<sup>2</sup> <https://intexplore.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/psalms-and-wisdom-literature.pdf>; accessed Nov. 3, 2020; entitled “Psalms and Wisdom Literature: An Introduction” by Paul Coulter; PaulCoulter.net